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THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

BACK IN BLACK



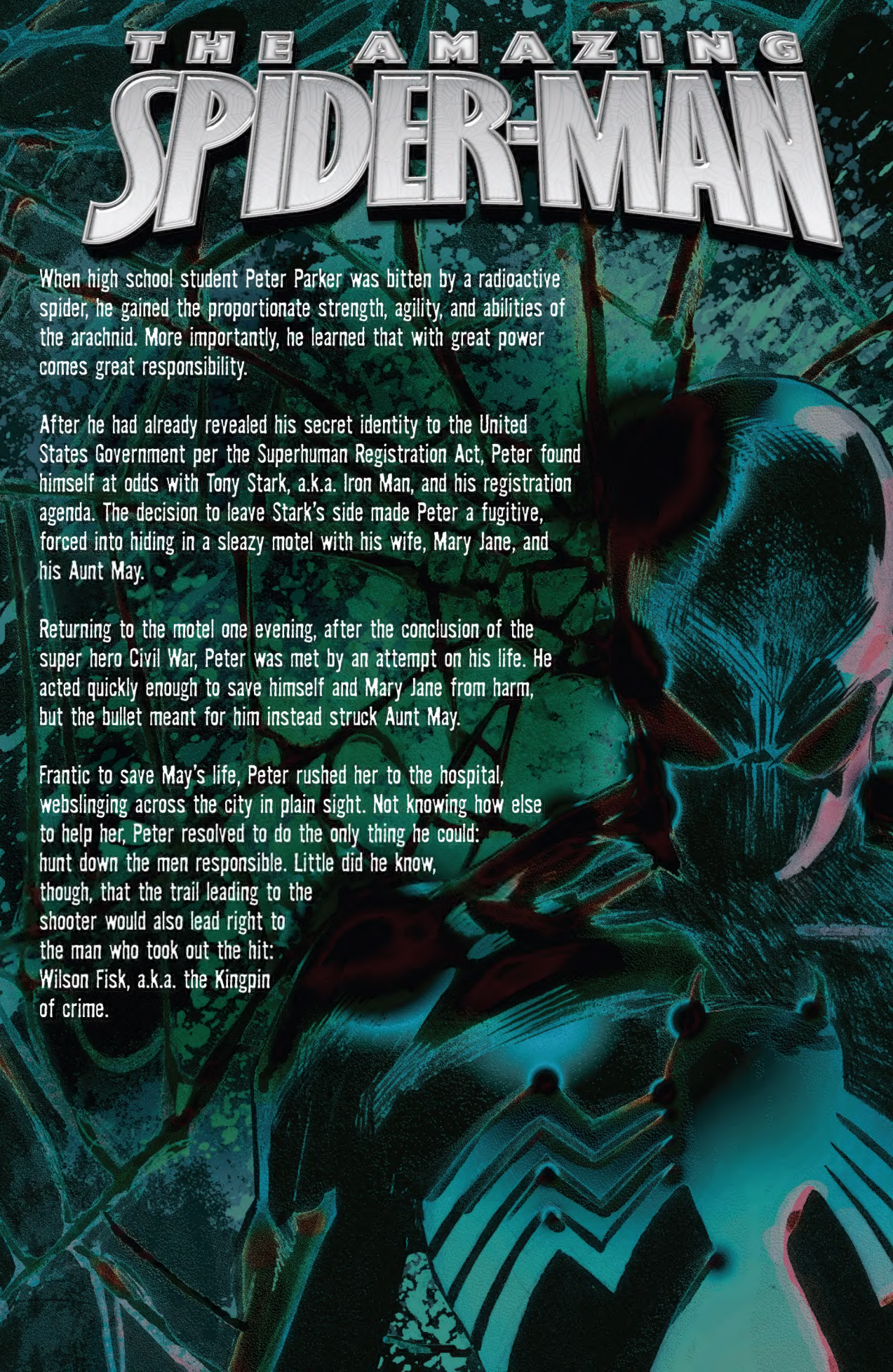
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

When high school student Peter Parker was bitten by a radioactive spider, he gained the proportionate strength, agility, and abilities of the arachnid. More importantly, he learned that with great power comes great responsibility.

After he had already revealed his secret identity to the United States Government per the Superhuman Registration Act, Peter found himself at odds with Tony Stark, a.k.a. Iron Man, and his registration agenda. The decision to leave Stark's side made Peter a fugitive, forced into hiding in a sleazy motel with his wife, Mary Jane, and his Aunt May.

Returning to the motel one evening, after the conclusion of the super hero Civil War, Peter was met by an attempt on his life. He acted quickly enough to save himself and Mary Jane from harm, but the bullet meant for him instead struck Aunt May.

Frantic to save May's life, Peter rushed her to the hospital, webslinging across the city in plain sight. Not knowing how else to help her, Peter resolved to do the only thing he could: hunt down the men responsible. Little did he know, though, that the trail leading to the shooter would also lead right to the man who took out the hit: Wilson Fisk, a.k.a. the Kingpin of crime.



At last I know the truth. It was the Kingpin who hired the man who tried to kill me, and instead shot Aunt May.

The gunman is dead.

One down, one to go.

I CAN DIE?

MR. PARKER, LET ME EXPLAIN THE WORLD TO YOU.

BACK IN BLACK

PART 3 OF 5

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I DON'T DIE.
I HAVE SOME WHO DO
THAT FOR ME, AND SOME
WHO DO THAT **BECAUSE**
OF ME.

BUT I
DON'T **DIE**. IT
WOULD BE--

--A
VIOLATION OF THE
LAWS OF NATURE,
MR. PARKER.

IN THE LAST
48 HOURS, I'VE
BROKEN JUST
ABOUT EVERY
LAW THERE IS,
MR. FISK.



WHAT'S ONE MORE?

I'M GOING TO PULL THAT OFF, AND THEN YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THE MAN YOU JUST SHOT.

MMMPH!



I yank off the webbing.

AGGCH!

But I don't do it gently.



LOOK, PLEASE, I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM, I SWEAR--

DON'T LIE TO ME. I CAN HEAR YOUR HEARTBEAT.

IT GOES FASTER WHEN YOU LIE.

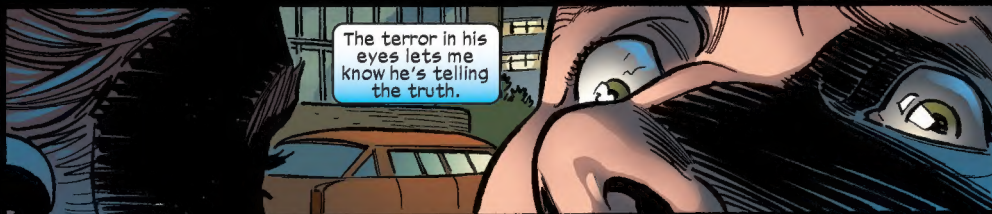
LIE TO ME AGAIN AND I'LL PULL IT OUT OF YOUR CHEST AND SHOW IT TO YOU.

It's not true, but he doesn't know that.

OKAY, OKAY!

LOOK, ALL I KNOW IS THE KINGPIN WANTED HIM OUT OF THE WAY 'CAUSE HE KNEW SOMETHING THE BOSS DIDN'T WANT ANYBODY ELSE TO KNOW.

THAT'S IT, THAT'S ALL, I SWEAR!



The terror in his eyes lets me know he's telling the truth.



I said I'd kill anyone directly involved in the shooting, but he's not. The Kingpin is using him same as he uses everybody else.

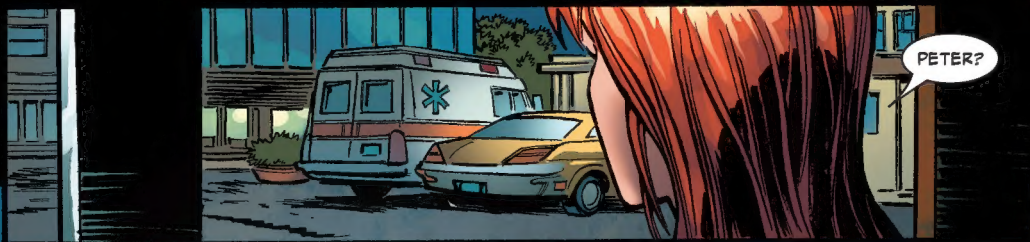
But I still need to send a message.



Then I hear MJ's footsteps coming toward us. I don't want this guy to know she or Aunt May are here.



PETER?
WHAT'RE--



PETER?



"EVERYTHING
OKAY, MR. FISK?"



REASONABLY
SO, CHARLIE.
YOU?

GOOD. WELL,
YOU KNOW. ALLERGIES
SOMETIMES. IT'S THIS
GLOBAL WARMING THING,
RAISES THE POLLEN
COUNT. I--

I NEED YOU
TO DO SOMETHING
FOR ME, CHARLIE.



WELL,
SURE, MR. FISK,
AS LONG AS IT'S...
YOU KNOW...WITHIN
THE RULES.

I'M AFRAID I
CAN'T HELP YOU
THERE, CHARLIE,
BECAUSE
TODAY--

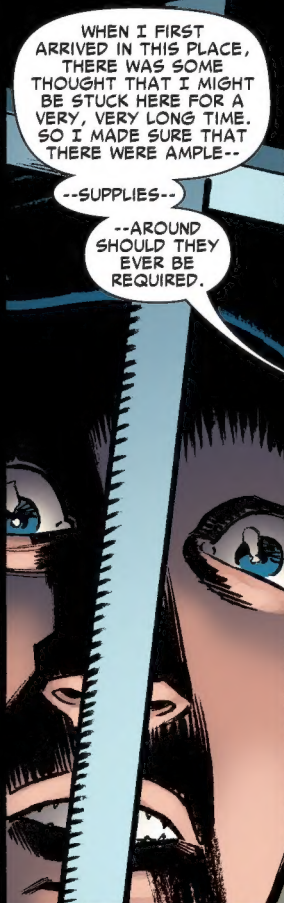


--TODAY--

CRUNCH!



--WE ARE
GOING FAR,
FAR BEYOND
THE RULES.



WHEN I FIRST
ARRIVED IN THIS PLACE,
THERE WAS SOME
THOUGHT THAT I MIGHT
BE STUCK HERE FOR A
VERY, VERY LONG TIME.
SO I MADE SURE THAT
THERE WERE AMPLE--

--SUPPLIES--

--AROUND
SHOULD THEY
EVER BE
REQUIRED.



YOU SEE,
IN ANCIENT TIMES,
IT WAS NOT UNCOMMON
FOR A KING TO BE
KIDNAPPED AND HELD
HOSTAGE UNTIL A FEE
WORTHY OF THE KING
WAS PAID.

CRUNCH!



AND WELL,
IN AN ENVIRONMENT
LIKE THIS, A MAN SUCH
AS MYSELF MUST BE
PREPARED FOR ANY
EVENTUALITY, HOWEVER
UNLIKELY, INCLUDING THE
POSSIBILITY OF SOMEONE
MAKING JUST SUCH
A MOVE.





A KING'S
RANSOM?



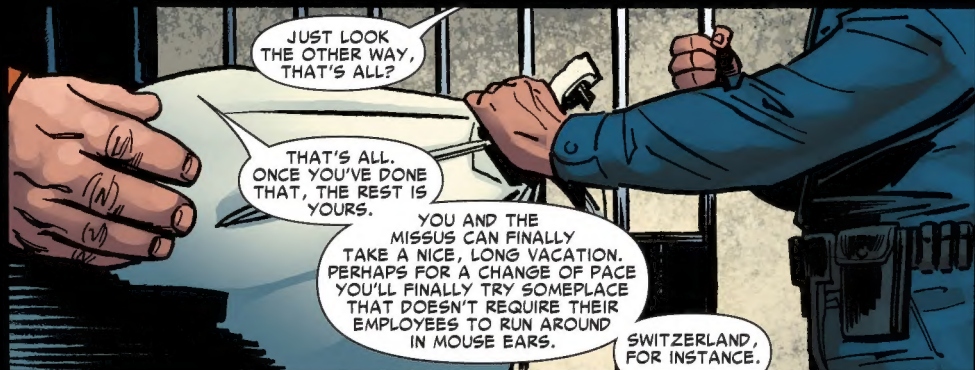
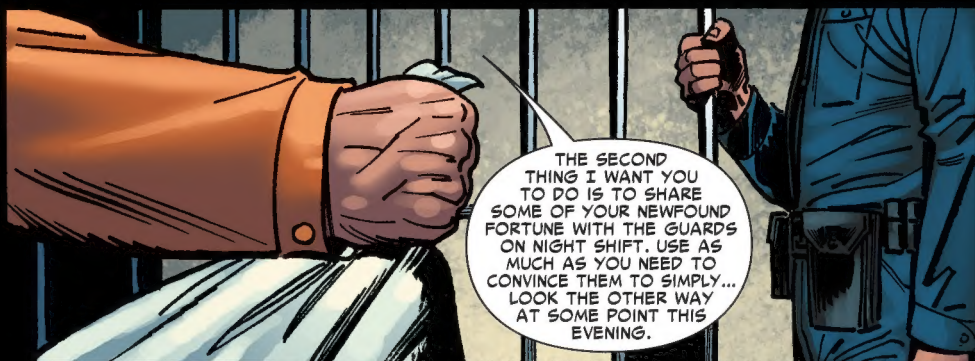
THAT'S RIGHT, CHARLIE.
A KINGPIN'S RANSOM, NOT A
KINGPIN'S RANSOM,
BECAUSE BASED ON VALUE
IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE
TO SNEAK THAT MUCH
MONEY INTO THIS CELL...
BUT A KING'S RANSOM?

OH,
YES. MOST
DEFINITELY.



SINCE MY
ATTORNEYS TELL
ME THERE'S A CHANCE
THAT I MAY BE
RELEASED SOON--THERE
IS APPARENTLY SOME
NEW NEGOTIATION GOING
ON--I NO LONGER HAVE
NEED OF THIS. SO I'M
GOING TO BUY
SOMETHING WITH
IT.

EDITOR'S NOTE:
FOR MORE ON THIS
NEGOTIATION, SEE
DAREDEVIL,
ISSUES #92 AND 93.





BY ALL RIGHTS, I SHOULD KILL YOU. NO, YOU WEREN'T DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN WHAT HAPPENED, BUT YOU WERE AN ACCESSORY AFTER THE FACT, AND THAT QUALIFIES YOU BY A TECHNICALITY.

...OGOD...
OGOD...

BUT THEN I DECIDED TO SAVE MYSELF FOR THE MAN WHO GAVE THE ORDER, NOT THE GUY LOWER ON THE FOOD CHAIN.

HERE'S THE THING OF IT, MISTER.

JIM...MY NAME IS JIM... PLEASE, DON'T DO THIS... PLEASE...

HERE'S THE THING OF IT, JIM.

YOU DO UNDERSTAND THE FOOD CHAIN, DON'T YOU...JIM?

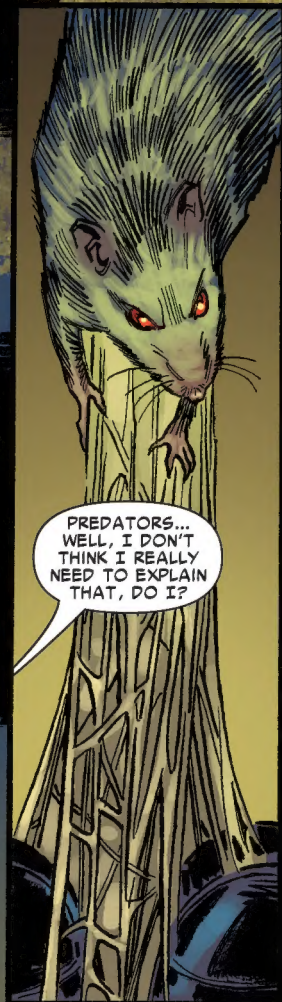
HELP!
SOMEBODY!
PLEASE,
HELP!



NO?
THEN LET ME
EXPLAIN.



THE FOOD
CHAIN CONSISTS
OF TWO PARTS.
PREDATORS AND
PREY.

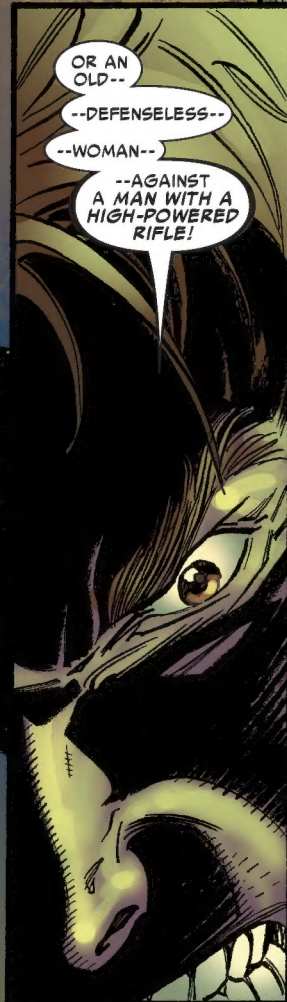


PREDATORS...
WELL, I DON'T
THINK I REALLY
NEED TO EXPLAIN
THAT, DO I?



PREDATORS
FEED ON PREY, AND
WE MAY DEFINE PREY AS
SOMETHING INCAPABLE
OF DEFENDING ITSELF
IN PROPORTION TO
THE ATTACK.

A DEER
AGAINST A WOLF,
FOR INSTANCE.



OR AN
OLD--
--DEFENSELESS--
--WOMAN--
--AGAINST
A MAN WITH A
HIGH-POWERED
RIFLE!



THOSE ARE
TWO EXAMPLES OF
PREY, JIM.

I'M BETTING
THAT RIGHT NOW,
YOU COULD SUPPLY
ME WITH A THIRD.

PLEASE!
THEY'RE...THEY'RE
ALL OVER ME!
PLEASE! I'LL DO
ANYTHING!

YEAH?



THEN HERE'S
SOMETHING
YOU CAN DO
FOR ME.



TELL EVERYONE...
TELL THE PEOPLE YOU
WORK WITH...TELL EVERYONE
IN THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD...
THAT MY FAMILY IS OFF-
LIMITS. THAT NOBODY--

--NOBODY--

--TOUCHES
THEM, FOR ANY
REASON.

EVER.



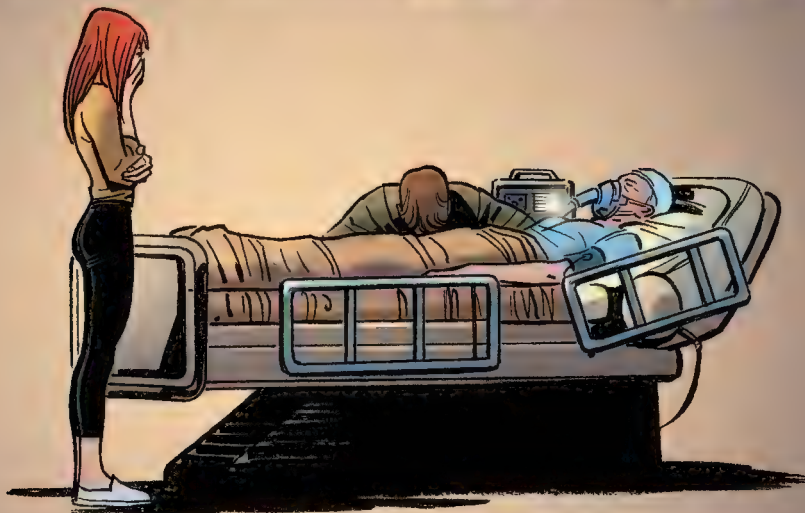
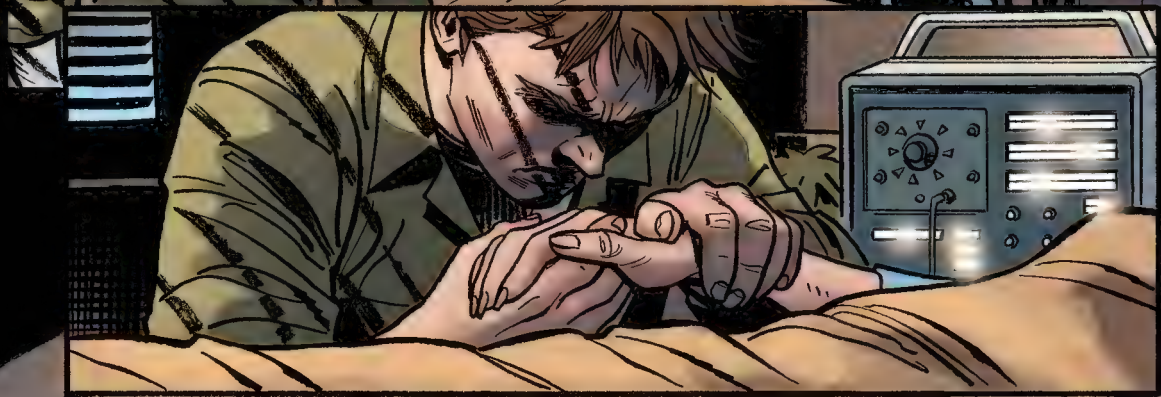
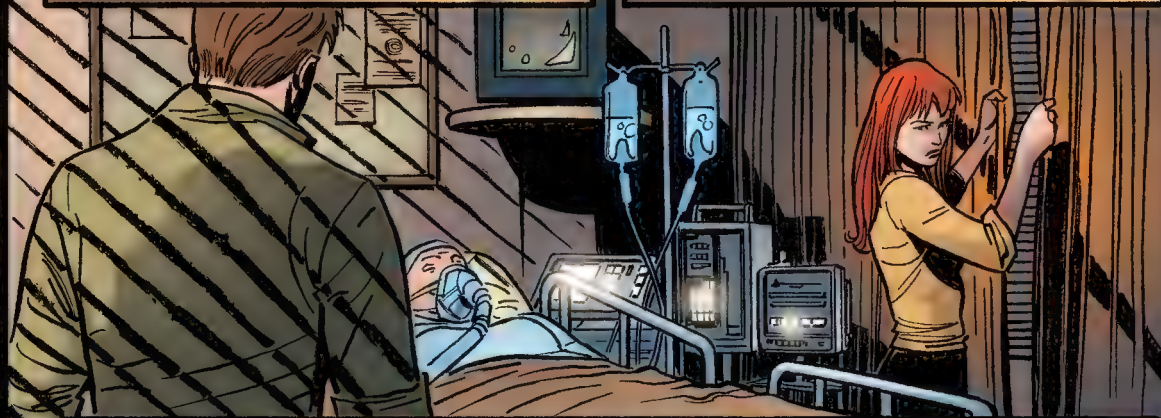
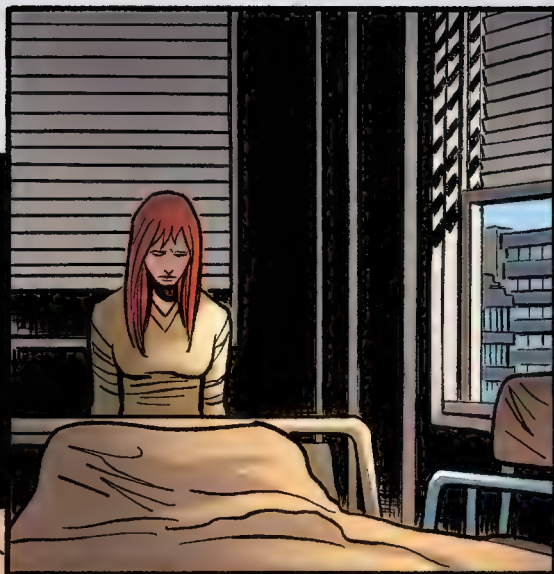
TELL THEM.
MAKE THEM
UNDERSTAND--

--THAT ANYONE
WHO TRIES MOVES
TO THE BOTTOM OF
THE FOOD CHAIN...AND
BECOMES PREY.

AND DOWN
HERE, IN THIS FOOD
CHAIN, THE RATS AREN'T
THE PREDATORS. THE MEN
WITH GUNS AREN'T
THE PREDATORS.



I AM.



HAS THERE BEEN ANY CHANGE?
ANY CHANGE AT ALL?

NO...AT LEAST NONE FOR THE BETTER.

THE MACHINES ARE THE ONLY THINGS KEEPING HER ALIVE RIGHT NOW. HER BRAIN IS UNDAMAGED SO FAR, BUT THE REST OF HER BODY HAS JUST...SHUT DOWN. IF WE LOST POWER, FOR EVEN A MOMENT--

UNDERSTOOD.

AND SOMETHING ELSE.

THERE'S A SOMETHING ELSE?

I'M PAYING FOR THIS IN CASH WITH EVERYTHING WE WERE ABLE TO TAKE OUT OF OUR SAVINGS, BUT IT'S GOING FAST. WHAT ALL THIS COSTS--THE EXTREME MEASURES, A PRIVATE ROOM, CRITICAL CARE--WE'RE BURNING THROUGH THAT MONEY WITH A SPEED THAT'S JUST FRIGHTENING.

THEN I'LL GET MORE MONEY, SOMEHOW, I--

IT'S NOT JUST THAT.

NOBODY PAYS FOR MEDICAL CARE IN CASH UPFRONT, IT ALWAYS GOES THROUGH AN INSURANCE COMPANY...UNLESS YOU'RE TRYING NOT TO BE NOTICED BY THE LAW OR SOMEBODY ELSE. THE MORE WE PAY CASH, THE MORE WE DRAW ATTENTION TO HER SITUATION.

SOONER OR LATER, SHE'S GOING TO BE NOTICED. WHEN THAT HAPPENS, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY FIGURE OUT WHO *SHE* IS, AND WHO *YOU* ARE. AND THEN--

THEN THE BAD PEOPLE COME.

YEAH...THEN THE BAD PEOPLE COME.

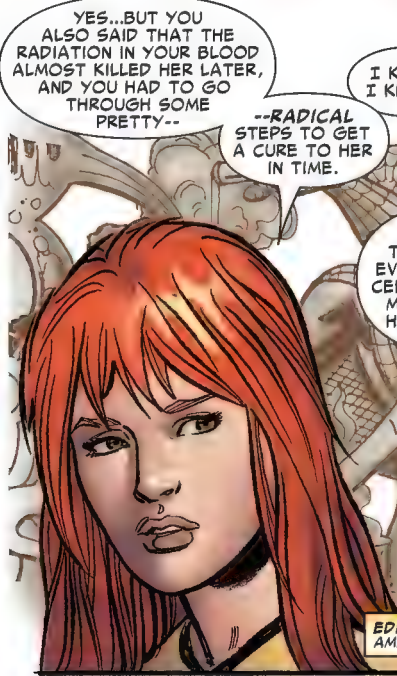


OKAY.
OKAY.
SO.
WE GO
FOR A HAIL
MARY PLAY.



DO YOU
REMEMBER ME
TELLING YOU HOW
I ONCE HAD SOME
DOCTORS GIVE AUNT
MAY A TRANSFUSION
OF MY BLOOD? IT
SAVED HER LIFE.

EDITOR'S NOTE:
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #10.



YES...BUT YOU
ALSO SAID THAT THE
RADIATION IN YOUR BLOOD
ALMOST KILLED HER LATER,
AND YOU HAD TO GO
THROUGH SOME
PRETTY--

--RADICAL
STEPS TO GET
A CURE TO HER
IN TIME.

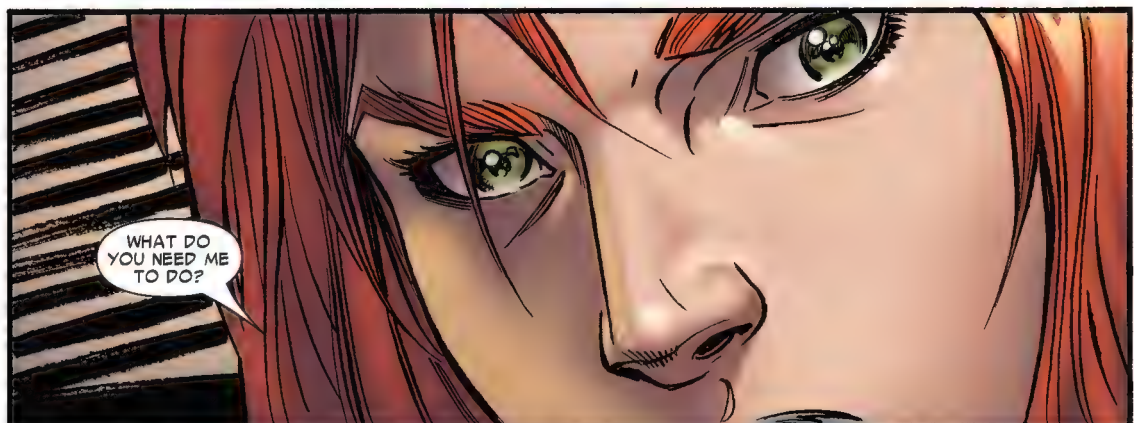
I KNOW,
I KNOW--

--BUT IF THE
SERUM THAT SAVED
HER HAD A LASTING
EFFECT, IT MIGHT ALLOW
HER TO ACCEPT MY
BLOOD NOW.

BESIDES, WHEN
THEY DID THE TRANSFUSION,
THEY PURIFIED IT, TAKING OUT
EVERYTHING BUT THE RED BLOOD
CELLS TO AVOID FLUID OVERLOAD.
MY WHITE BLOOD CELLS COULD
HAVE SAVED HER FROM HAVING
THAT REACTION.

SO IT
WOULD HAVE TO
BE A STRAIGHT-UP
TRANSFUSION, NO
DOCTORS TO PURIFY
THINGS OR GET
IN THE WAY.

EDITOR'S NOTE:
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #31-33.



WHAT DO
YOU NEED ME
TO DO?

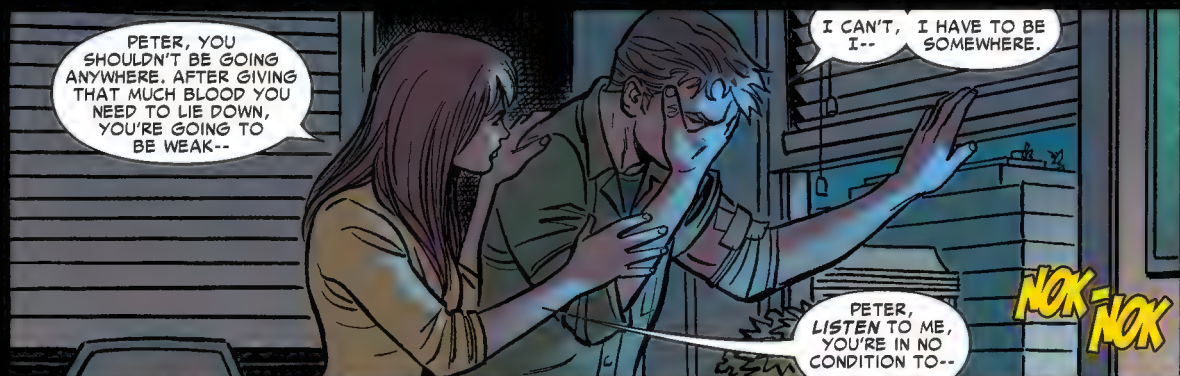
"I KNOW HOW TO DO IT, ALL I NEED IS THE EQUIPMENT."

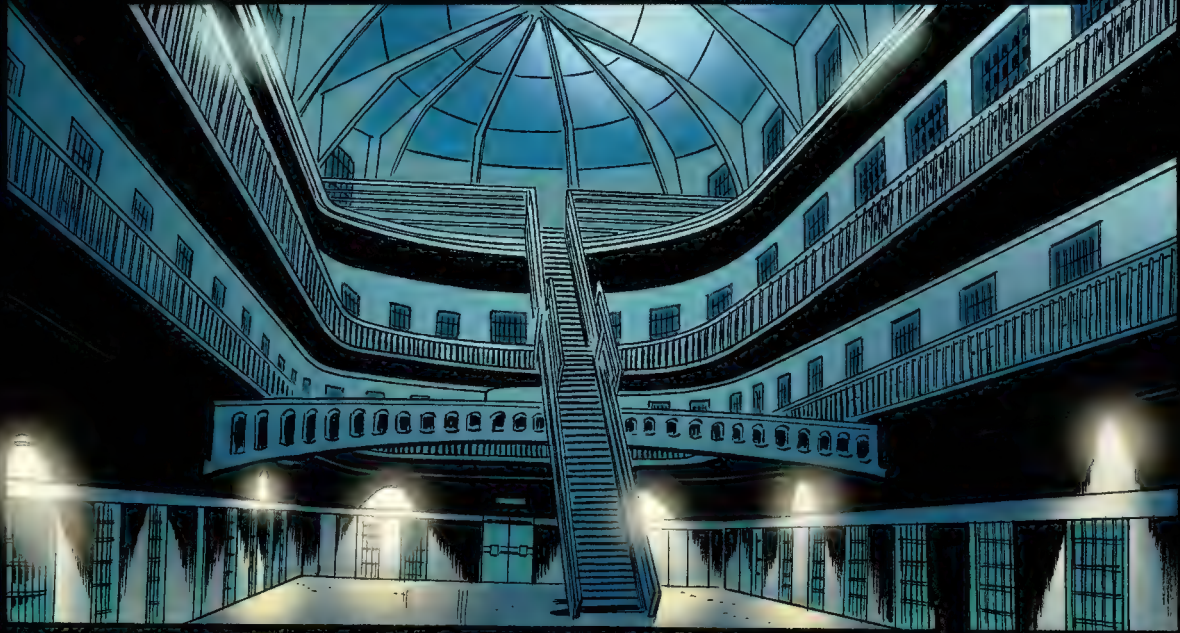
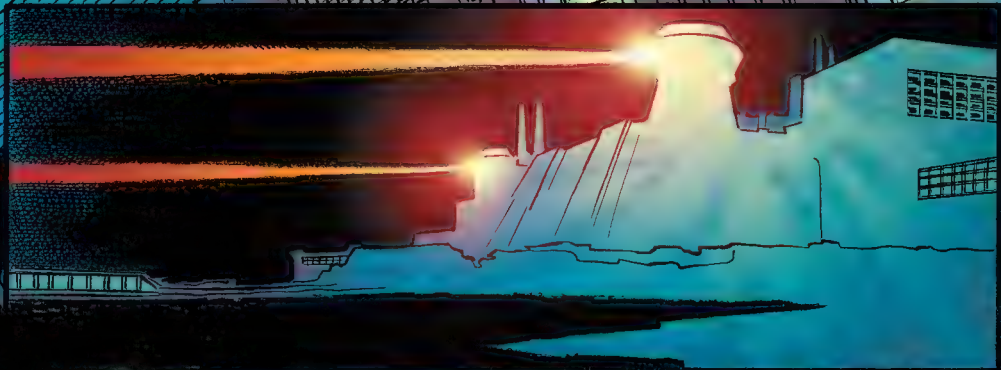
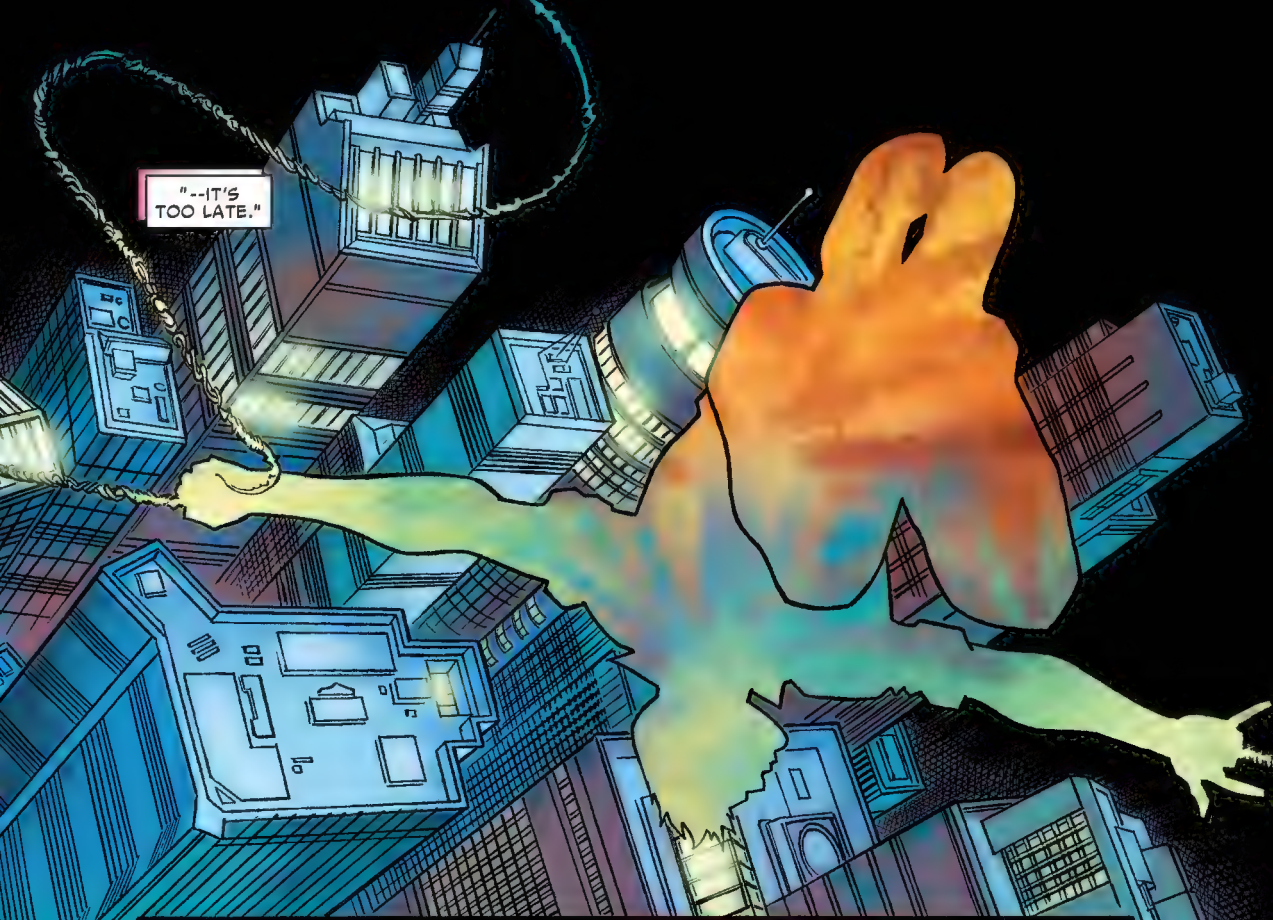
"WE'LL NEED INTRAVENOUS TUBING, SHARPS, AND AN EMERGENCY STERILE TRANSFUSION KIT, PROBABLY MARKED ON THE FIRST AID BOXES AS GIVING SETS AND CANNULAE."

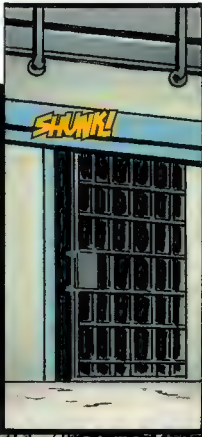
"I DECIDED A LONG TIME AGO THAT THIS WAS TOO DANGEROUS TO TRY AGAIN EXCEPT UNDER ONE CIRCUMSTANCE."

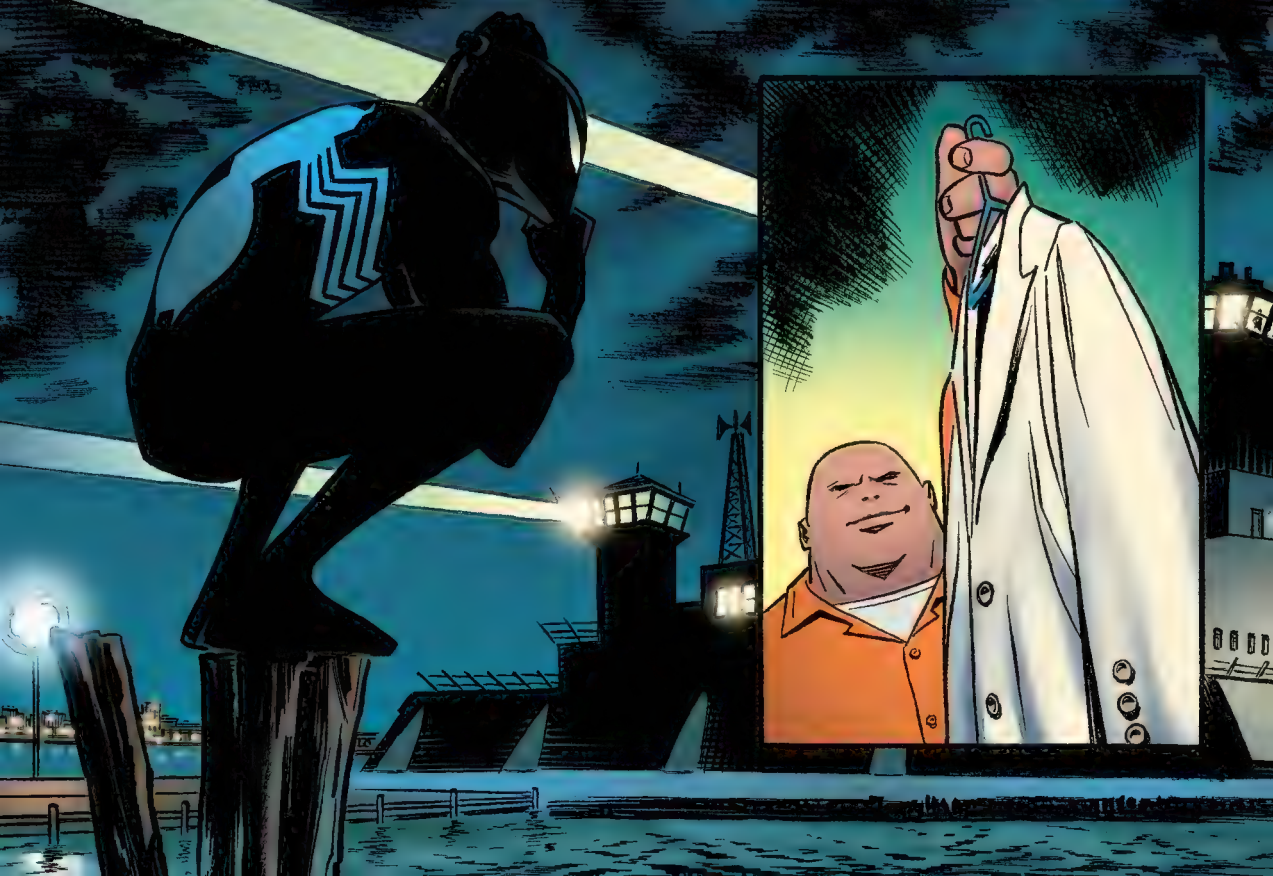
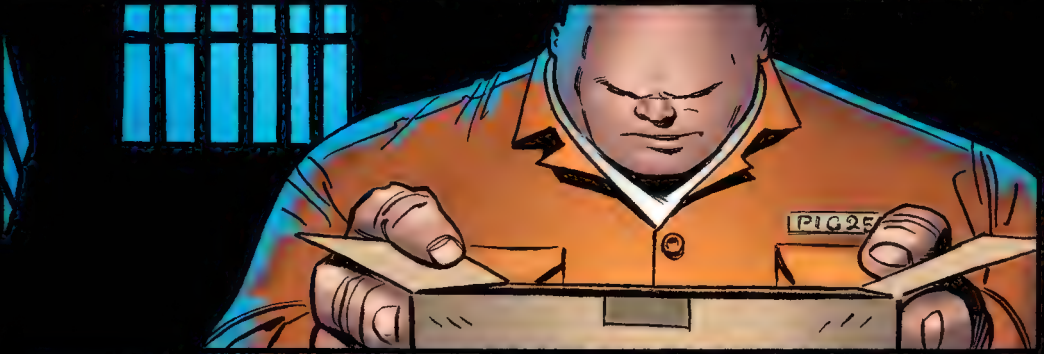
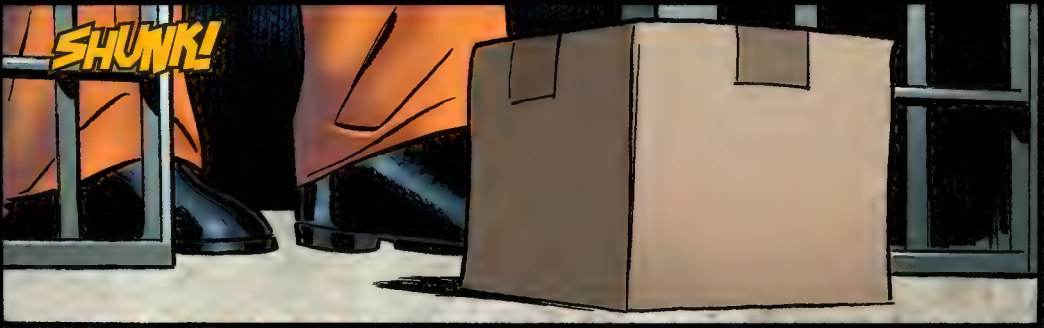
"WHAT CIRCUMSTANCE IS THAT, PETER?"

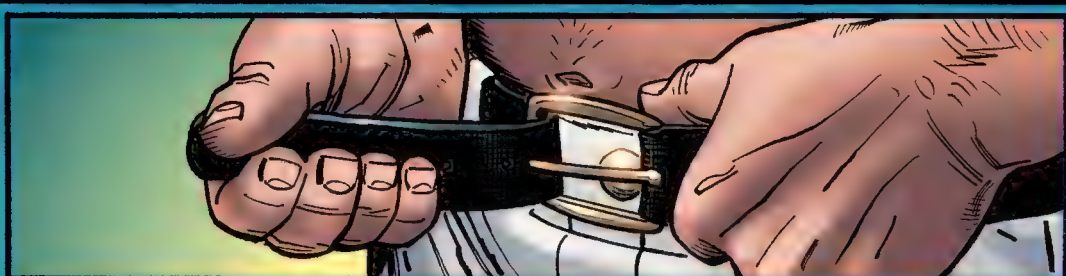
"WHEN NEITHER ONE OF US HAS ANYTHING LEFT TO LOSE."

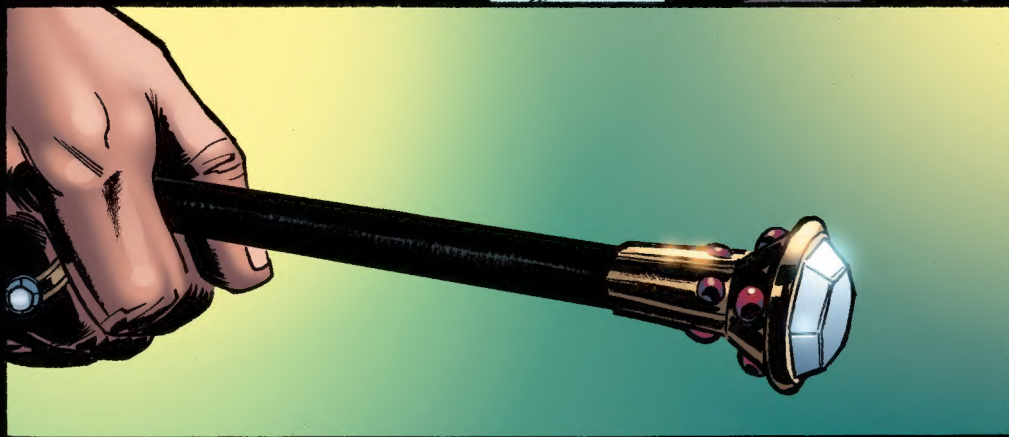


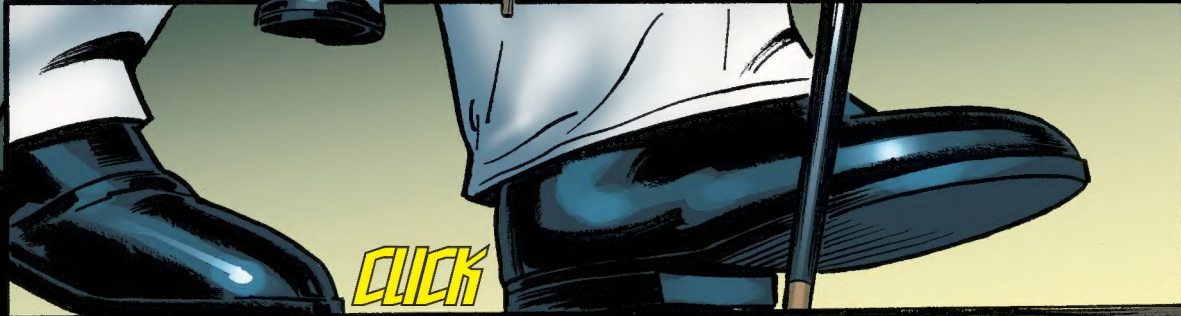














TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE:

